



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 30, 2005

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN'S  
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES, OMEGA HOUSE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Omega House Group Home operated by Children's Therapeutic Communities. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Omega House Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Omega House Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County Probation child, three Riverside County Probation children, one Imperial County child, and one Ventura County Department of Social Services child.

Omega House Group Home is located in Riverside County.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. Omega House Group Home needs to improve the condition of the children's bathroom, and encourage and assist children in creating and updating life books and/or photo albums.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached), which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Donald Bosis, Executive Director, Children's Therapeutic Communities  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Children's Therapeutic Communities  
Omega House Group Home  
16840 Canyon View  
Riverside, California 92054  
Phone: (909) 780-6374  
License Number: 330908993  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Children's Therapeutic Communities, Omega House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment. Common quarters are neat; however, the children's bathroom requires repair. The linoleum floor and baseboard is damaged and needs to be replaced, and the tile and grout on the outside of the bathtub/shower needs to be cleaned.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Children's Therapeutic Communities Management:**

- a. Replace the linoleum and baseboards in the children's bathroom.**
- b. Clean the tile and grout in the children's bathroom.**

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: One**

### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: One**

### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: One**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children receiving psychotropic medication. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: One**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff

supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff, and reports that staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: One**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. Children's Therapeutic Communities Management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

CD 11/9/05

Attachment  
Page 1 of 1

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Riverside, California 92504  
(951) 789-4410  
FAX (951) 789-9169



Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 2277  
Riverside, California 92516-2277

November 3, 2005

County of Los Angeles Department of Auditor-Controller  
Attn: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor  
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Monitor Report / Recommendations  
16840 Canyon View Drive  
Riverside, CA 92504

Dear Ms. Rhue,

Ms. Jacquelyn Hayes visited our Omega facility on Tuesday, October 18, 2005. In her draft report the following recommendation were made.

Recommendation #1

Facility and Environment:

- a) Replace the linoleum and baseboards in the children's bathroom.
- b) Clean the tile and grout in the children's bathroom.

Response:

The linoleum and baseboard were replaced as well as the tile was replaced with a smooth wall tub backing to eliminate further issues with grout. Pictures are attached to substantiate changes.

Recommendation #2

Clothing and Allowance

- a) Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Response:

Photo album/life book provided as well as pictures taken to start book. Further entries into photo album/life book will be encouraged and monitored by Case Manager.

Should you need any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (951) 789-4410.

Sincerely,

Carolyn E. Brown  
Assistant Executive Director  
Children's Therapeutic Communities, Inc.